



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Harvest of Snowy Grouper in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on July 25, 2014

Commercial harvest of snowy grouper in South Atlantic federal waters will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on July 25, 2014**. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2015. The 2014 commercial catch limit is 82,900 pounds gutted weight. Reports indicate that commercial landings are rapidly approaching the 2014 catch limit.

The operator of a vessel with a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper that is landing snowy grouper for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such snowy grouper prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), July 25, 2014. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of snowy grouper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time) July 25, 2014, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of snowy grouper is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Recreational harvest of snowy grouper is currently prohibited.
- Sale and purchase of snowy grouper is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for a person onboard a vessel with a federal snapper-grouper permit.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper population.